Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services
Bureau of Health Systems
Division of Health Facilities & Services
Health Facility Evaluation Section

	Interpretive Bulletin: #03-2003
Subject	**Rule Reference**
Clearances at chair stations in patient holding areas	Minimum Design Standards for Health Care Facilities in Michigan Section 2.1.C & Rule 68(6) Freestanding Surgical Outpatient Facilities Rules
	Date
	January 29, 2003

Interpretive Bulletins are released by the Health Facility Evaluation Section to clarify sections of the Michigan Design Standards for Health Care Facilities in Michigan and when research, experience, or technology illustrates present regulations do not adequately address the specific instances or circumstances in the health care environment.

The Minimum Design Standards require a clearance of at least 4 feet between beds, stretchers or chairs and at least 4 feet between an adjacent wall and the side of a bed, stretcher or chair. In addition, the Minimum Design Standards and the FSOF rules both require chair stations to provide at least 50 square feet (sf) of clear floor area in patient holding (does not apply to dialysis treatment areas).

We will accept only a 3 foot clearance (versus the above rule which requires a 4 foot clearance) on either side of a chair station in patient holding areas based on:

1.   In most situations our staff has historically required 3 feet clearances on either side of beds, stretchers, or chairs for equipment, emergency access, and to prevent transmission of disease via droplet nuclei;

2.   Combining the requirements of 50 s.f. of clear floor area and 4 foot clearances could produce unusably shaped or excessively large cubicles;

3.   Chair stations are typically assigned only to cases with no expectation of the patient requiring emergency resuscitation;

4.   Using 3 foot side clearances with additional chair stations on each side will still produce a chair station with minimum dimensions of 6'-0" by 8'-4" deep, which is deemed to be appropriate and usable for the expected functions.